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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/579,395	12/27/95	SWAIN	W

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MM41/0922

EXAMINER

KARLSEN, E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2858

13

DATE MAILED: 09/22/98

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

# Office Action Summary

Application No.	08/579395	Applicant(s)	SWAIN, WILLIAM H.
Examiner	E. KARLSEN	Group Art Unit	2858

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

## Period for Response

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a response be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for response specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a response within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for response is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to respond within the set or extended period for response will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

## Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6-22-98
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 1.7.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

## Attachment(s)

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☒ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Office Action Summary

Art Unit: 2858

1. Because Applicant has indicated that no patentably distinct inventions<sup>or</sup> species are present the Restriction Requirements of February 21, 1997 and January 16, 1998 are withdrawn. It is noted that Applicant states on page 1 (actually the second page) of the Amendment of May 29, 1997: "My traverse relies on the fact that the basic concept (claim 14) is in every claim, so no claim would be patentable over another because it would lack novelty outside of this application."

2. Applicant has added numerous claims in response in response to restriction requirements and has given claims strange numbers. Which claims are in the case and exactly what their numbers are<sup>is not</sup> ~~are not~~ clear. It is suggested that all the claims presently in the case be cancelled and the claims represented as claims 32 to whatever the highest number is. Claims cannot be renumbered under the rules but they can be copied verbatim and given new numbers. See 37 CFR 1.26. Claims 1-31 seem to currently be in the application.

3. Claims 1-31 and any other claims that might be in the application are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is not clear what all the claimed elements and steps are and it is not clear how they are interconnected or interrelated to produce the desired results. It is requested that a reading of each of the independent claims be provided with respect to a figure or figures of the drawings. Claim 14, for instance, has no positively claimed elements and appears to be kind of a statement of a physical law which in itself is not clear.

Art Unit: 2858

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-31 are insofar as understood, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being fully anticipated by Lucich et al.

7. Applicant is reminded of the proper content of an abstract of the disclosure.

A patent abstract is a concise statement of the technical disclosure of the patent and should include that which is new in the art to which the invention pertains. If the patent is of a basic nature, the entire technical disclosure may be new in the art, and the abstract should be directed to the entire disclosure. If the patent is in the nature of an improvement in an old apparatus, process, product, or composition, the abstract should include the technical disclosure of the improvement. In certain patents, particularly those for compounds and compositions, wherein the process for making and/or the use thereof are not obvious, the abstract should set forth a process for making and/or use thereof. If the new technical disclosure involves modifications or alternatives, the abstract should mention by way of example the preferred modification or alternative.

The abstract should not refer to purported merits or speculative applications of the invention and should not compare the invention with the prior art.

Where applicable, the abstract should include the following:

- (1) if a machine or apparatus, its organization and operation;
- (2) if an article, its method of making;
- (3) if a chemical compound, its identity and use;
- (4) if a mixture, its ingredients;
- (5) if a process, the steps.

Extensive mechanical and design details of apparatus should not be given.

8. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

Art Unit: 2858

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 250 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 250 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

9. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it does not follow the above guidelines. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Oswald et al and Meehan are cited to show additional material similar to that of Lucich et al

Karlsen/dc  
September 14, 1998



**Ernest F. Karlsen**  
Primary Examiner



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Applicant(s): William H. Swain  
Serial Number: 08-579375  
Filing Date: 12-27-96  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION

(Attachment to Office Action)

This application does not conform with the rules governing applications for the reason(s) checked below. The period within which to correct these requirements and avoid abandonment is set in the accompanying Office action.

A. A new oath or declaration, identifying this application by the serial number and filing date is required. The oath or declaration does not comply with 37 CFR 1.63 in that it:

1. ☐ was not executed in accordance with either 37 CFR 1.66 or 1.68.
2. ☐ does not identify the city and state or foreign country of residence of each inventor.
3. ☐ does not identify the citizenship of each inventor.
4. ☐ does not state whether the inventor is a sole or joint inventor.
5. ☐ does not state that the person making the oath or declaration:
  - a. ☐ has reviewed and understands the contents of the specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to in the oath or declaration.
  - b. ☐ believes the named inventor or inventors to be the original and first inventor or inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought.
  - c. ☐ acknowledges the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of the application in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56(a).
6. ☐ does not identify the foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate on which priority is claimed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.55, and any foreign application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed, by specifying the application serial number, country, day, month, and year of its filing.
7. ☐ does not state that the person making the oath or declaration acknowledges the duty to disclose material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and filing date of the continuation-in-part application which discloses and claims subject matter in addition to that disclosed in the prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)).
8. ☐ does not include the date of execution.
9. ☐ does not use permanent ink, or its equivalent in quality, as required under 37 CFR 1.52(a) for the: ☐ signature ☐ oath/declaration.
10. ☐ contains non-initialed alterations (See 37 CFR 1.52(c) and 1.56).
11. ☐ does not contain the clause regarding "willful false statements..." as required by 37 CFR 1.68.
12. ☒ Other: Abstract should be on 1 page.

B. Applicant is required to provide:

1. ☐ A statement signed by applicant giving his or her complete name. A full name must include at least one given name without abbreviation as required by 37 CFR 1.41(a).
2. ☐ Proof of authority of the legal representative under 37 CFR 1.44.
3. ☐ An abstract in compliance with 37 CFR 1.72(b).
4. ☐ A statement signed by applicant giving his or her complete post office address (37 CFR 1.33(a)).
5. ☐ A copy of the specification written, typed, or printed in permanent ink, or its equivalent in quality as required by 37 CFR 1.52(a).
6. ☐ Other: